AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A residue collector adapted for coupling to a prep-board, comprising:

a reservoir;

a collection perimeter defined by a residue collector surface, the collection perimeter encompassing the reservoir, wherein the residue collector surface along the collection perimeter has a minimum height;

a plurality of support members for laterally and perpendicularly supporting a prep-board in a prep-position for preparing articles on a prep-surface of the prep-board, the support members being inboard of the collection perimeter, wherein the support members each comprise a lateral support portion, the lateral support portion facing an inboard direction and arranged to meet a perpendicular edge of a prep-board, and comprise a perpendicular support portion, the perpendicular support portion being adjacent to the lateral support portion and arranged to support a horizontal surface of the prep-board, wherein the perpendicular support portion lies below the minimum height of the residue collector surface along the collection perimeter.

2. (Original) The residue collector of Claim 1, wherein the residue collector is a unitary, one-piece structure.

3. (Original) The residue collector of Claim 1, wherein a base portion of the residue collector lies outboard of the collection perimeter.

4. (Original) The residue collector of Claim 1, wherein the residue collector has a generally rectangular shape.

5. (Original) The residue collector of Claim 4, wherein the base of the residue collector has dimensions of one of about 11 by 15 inches, 14.5 by 18.5 inches or 18 by 22 inches.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Amended) The residue collector of Claim 1, wherein the residue collector surface along the collection perimeter has a maximum height and the lateral support portion extends above said maximum height.

9. (Original) The residue collector of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of support members has a truncated, generally conical shape.

10. (Original) The residue collector of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of support members lies at least partially in the reservoir.

11. (Original) The residue collector of Claim 10, wherein the at least one of the plurality of support members is an upward projection in the reservoir.

12. (Previously Presented) A prep-board assembly, comprising:

a prep-board with a prep-board perimeter;

a residue collector comprising a reservoir, a collection perimeter encompassing the reservoir and a plurality of support members laterally and perpendicularly supporting the prep-board when the prep-board is removably placed in a prep-position;

wherein the prep-board perimeter and the collection perimeter define a continuous gap around the prep-board perimeter; and wherein the support members each comprise a lateral support portion, the lateral support portion facing an inboard direction and arranged to meet a perpendicular edge of a prep-board, and comprise a perpendicular support portion, the perpendicular support portion being adjacent to the lateral support portion and arranged to support a horizontal surface of the prep-board.

13. (Original) The prep-board assembly of Claim 12, where in the gap is at least about 3/8 of an inch around the entire prep-board perimeter.

14. (Previously Presented) The prep-board assembly of Claim 12, wherein a top surface of the prep-board lies above a maximum level of the collection perimeter when in the prep-position.

15. (Previously Presented) The prep-board assembly of Claim 14, wherein the top surface of the prep-board lies at least about 1/8 of an inch above the maximum level of the collection perimeter when in the prep-position.

16. (Previously Presented) The prep-board assembly of Claim 12, wherein the underside of the prep-board lies below a minimum level of the collection perimeter when in the prep-position.

17. (Previously Presented) The prep-board assembly of Claim 16, wherein the underside of the prep-board lies at least about 1/8 of an inch below the minimum level of the collection perimeter when in the prep-position.

18. (Original) The prep-board assembly of Claim 12, wherein the residue collector comprises a continuous gap-collector portion within the gap and encompassing the prep-board perimeter and lower than adjacent collector perimeter portions.

19. (Original) The prep-board assembly of Claim 18, wherein the continuous gap-collector portion includes at least one obstructed gap portion adjacent at least one of the plurality of support portions, wherein in the obstructed gap portion, the gap-collector surface portion extends at least about 1/16 of an inch below an outwardly adjacent collector perimeter portions.

20. (Original) The prep-board assembly of Claim 12, wherein the prep-board has a solid surface.

21. (Previously Presented) The prep-board assembly of Claim 12, wherein the prep-board has throughways formed through the prep-board.

22. (Previously Presented) The prep-board assembly of Claim 21, wherein the throughways comprise slots formed through the prep-board.

23. (Original) The prep-board assembly of Claim 21, wherein the prep-board comprises a solid perimeter portion extending around the perimeter of the prep-board.

24. (Original) The prep-board assembly of Claim 22 , wherein the prep-board comprises a plurality of rows of slots, adjacent rows of slots being separated from one another by a separation portion.

25. (Original) The prep-board assembly of Claim 12, wherein the prep-board has a generally rectangular shape.

26. (Original) The prep-board assembly of Claim 25, wherein the prep-board has dimensions of one of about 8 by 12 inches, about 11.5 by 15.5 inches or 15 by 19 inches.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The prep-board assembly of Claim 12, wherein the lateral support portions are at about a right angle to the corresponding perpendicular support portions.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) The prep-board assembly of Claim 28, wherein the collection perimeter has a maximum level in relation to a bottom surface of the reservoir, and the lateral support portion extends above the maximum level of the collection perimeter.

31. (Original) The prep-board assembly of Claim 12, wherein at least one of the plurality of support members has a truncated, generally conical shape.

32. (Original) The prep-board assembly of Claim 12, wherein at least one of the plurality of support members lies at least partially in the reservoir.

33. (Original) The prep-board assembly of Claim 32, wherein the at least one of the plurality of support members is an upward projection in the reservoir.

34. (Previously Presented) A residue collector system, comprising:

a residue collector comprising a collection perimeter encompassing a reservoir and a plurality of support members adapted to laterally and perpendicularly support a prep-board;

a plurality of prep-boards of different types adapted to be removably supported in a prep-position by the residue collector;

wherein a first prep-board has a prep-board perimeter, the prep-board perimeter and the collection perimeter defining a continuous gap around the prep-board perimeter.

35. (Original) The system according to Claim 34, wherein the plurality of prep-boards comprises a prep-board with a solid surface.

36. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 34, wherein the plurality of prep-boards comprises a prep-board with throughways formed through the prep-board from a prep-surface to a bottom surface.

37. (Previously Presented) The system according to Claim 34, wherein the plurality of prep-boards comprises a first prep-board with a solid surface and a second prep-board with throughways formed through the second prep-board from a prep-surface to a bottom surface.

38. (Previously Presented) A prep-board assembly, comprising:

a prep-board with a prep-board perimeter;

a residue collector comprising a reservoir, a collection perimeter encompassing the reservoir and a plurality of support members inboard of the collection perimeter, the collection perimeter having a maximum level and a mimum level, the plurality of support members having lateral support portions and perpendicular support portions laterally and perpendicularly supporting the prep-board in a prep-position with a top surface of the prep-board lying above the maximum level and an underside of the prep-board lying below said minimum level ;

wherein the prep-board perimeter and the collection perimeter define a continuous gap around the prep-board perimeter and the residue collector comprises a

continuous gap-collector portion within the gap and encompassing the prep-board perimeter and lower than adjacent collector perimeter portions; and

wherein at least one of the plurality of support members is an upward projection lying in the reservoir.

39. (Original) The prep-board assembly of Claim 38, wherein the prep-board has a generally rectangular shape.

40. (Currently Amended) A prep-board assembly, comprising:

a prep-board with a prep-board perimeter, the prep-board having a surface; and

a residue collector adapted for removably coupling with a prep-board, the residue collector comprising a reservoir, a collection perimeter encompassing said reservoir, the collection perimeter having a maximum level;

wherein when the prep-board is coupled with the residue collector, the prep-board perimeter and the collection perimeter define a continuous gap around the prep-board perimeter and the surface of the prep-board is positioned above the maximum level of the collection perimeter when in the prep-position.

41. (Original) The prep-board assembly of Claim 40, wherein the gap is at least about 3/8 of an inch around the entire prep-board perimeter.

42. (Previously Presented) A prep-board system, comprising:

a generally rectangular reservoir portion comprising a first pair of opposing sides and a second pair of opposing sides;

at least one first support member along a first side of the first pair of opposing sides and at least one second support member along a second side of the first pair of opposing sides;

at least one third support member along a first side of the second pair of opposing sides and at least one fourth support member along a second side of the second pair of opposing sides;

a generally rectangular prep-board, wherein the first, second, third and fourth support members are arranged to support the prep-board in a generally horizontal prep-position;

wherein the first, second, third and fourth support members each comprises a lateral support portion, arranged to abut a perpendicular outer edge of the prep-board when the prep-board is removably positioned in the prep-position, and each comprises a perpendicular support portion, arranged to support a horizontal bottom surface of the prep-board when the prep-board is in the prep-position.

43. (Previously Presented) The prep-board system of claim 42, further comprising a plurality of support pads arranged on an underside of the reservoir portion.

44. (Previously Presented) The prep-board system of claim 43, wherein the plurality of support pads comprise an elastomer.

45. (Previously Presented) The prep-board system of claim 43, wherein the plurality of support pads are inserted into corresponding recesses located on the underside of the reservoir portion.

46. (Previously Presented) The prep-board system of claim 42, further comprising a plurality of prep-boards, each adapted to be supported by the plurality of support members, wherein each of the plurality of prep-boards has a unique visible code which distinguishes it from the other of the plurality of prep-boards.

47. (Previously Presented) The prep-board system of claim 46, wherein the unique visible code comprises a unique color code.

48. (Previously Presented) The prep-board system of claim 42, wherein the at least one first support member comprises two first support members, the at least one second support member comprises two second support members, the at least one third support member comprises two third support members and the at least one fourth support member comprises two fourth support members.

49. (Previously Presented) The prep-board system of claim 42, wherein the prep-board has first and second hand-hold recesses in opposing first and second sides of the prep-board.

50. (Previously Presented) The prep-board system of claim 42, wherein the reservoir portion comprises polycarbonate.

51. (Previously Presented) The residue collector system of claim 34, wherein the plurality of prep-boards adapted to be supported in a prep-position by the residue collector comprise a first prep-board, having a first unique visible code which distinguishes it from the other of the plurality of prep-boards, and a second prep-board, having a second unique visible code which distinguishes it from the other of the plurality of prep-boards.

52. (Previously Presented) The residue collector system of claim 51, wherein the first unique visible code has a first color and the second unique visible code has a second color that is different from the first color.

53. (Previously Presented) The residue collector according to claim 1, wherein the residue collector comprises polycarbonate.

54. (Previously Presented) A residue collector adapted for coupling to a prep-board, comprising:

a collector surface having a collection perimeter encompassing a reservoir having a bottom surface, wherein the collector surface slopes downward into the reservoir inboard of the collection perimeter and slopes downward away from the reservoir outboard of the collection perimeter, and wherein the collection perimeter has a maximum level and a minimum level relative to said bottom surface;

a plurality of support members, wherein each of the plurality of support members has a lateral support portion adapted for providing lateral support to a prep-board in a prep-position and having a perpendicular support portion adapted to provide perpendicular support to a prep-board in a prep-position;

wherein each of the plurality of the support members lies inboard of the collection perimeter.

55. (Previously Presented) The residue collector according to claim 54, wherein each of the lateral support portions extend above the maximum level.

56. (Previously Presented) The residue collector according to claim 54, wherein each of the perpendicular support portions lies below the minimum level.

57. (Previously Presented) The residue collector according to claim 54, wherein each of the lateral support portions extends above the maximum level and each of the perpendicular support portions lies below the minimum level.

58. (Previously Presented) The prep-board assembly of claim 38, wherein the collection perimeter has a constant level and the maximum level and the minimum level are the same level.